

Meeting of the Commission  
July 24, 2013  
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center  
Murdock Room - IDHS  
Suite 5-300  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, IL 60601

and

Lincoln Land Training Center  
130 W. Mason Street  
Room 104  
Springfield, Illinois

### **MINUTES**

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Commissioners**

In Chicago

Chairman Martin R. Castro  
Robert A. Cantone  
David Chang  
Terry Cosgrove  
Merri Dee  
Nabi Fakroddin  
Lauren Beth Gash  
Rozanne Ronen  
David J. Walsh  
Diane M. Viverito  
Patricia Bakalis Yadgir

Absent

Marti Baricevic

##### **Staff**

Keith N. Chambers  
Reva Bauch  
LaNade Bridges  
Jose Galvez  
Donyelle L. Gray  
Evelio Mora  
Christine Welninski  
Chime Asonye, Coles Fellow  
Kinza Khan, Coles Fellow  
Brett Werenski, Coles Fellow  
Nicholas Rawls, Summer High School Intern

##### **Members of Public:**

Michael Rawls

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**NOTICE:**

Public and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

**I. Call to Order**

On July 24, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., Chairman Martin R. Castro called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting. Prior to the meeting, Commissioner Baricevic gave notice to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Donyelle Gray that she would be unable to attend the meeting.

**II. Consideration of Minutes**

June 26, 2013

The Commission voted to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2013 meeting, as submitted by staff. Motion to approve the minutes of June 26, 2013 made by Commissioner Nabi and seconded by Commissioner Gash. Motion carried 11-0.

**III. Chairman's Report**

*Martin R. Castro, Chairman*

Chairman Castro did not give a report for the July 24, 2013 meeting.

**IV. Staff Reports**

A. *N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director*

Mr. Chambers updated the Commission on the status of the Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") funds for Fair Housing cases filed with the Commission and the Illinois Department of Human Rights ("Department"). Mr. Chambers reported that there is currently no agreement between the two agencies.

Mr. Chambers also reported that senior Commission staff met with senior officials of the Department on June 13, 2013, to continue discussions about HUD related cases and reimbursements. Mr. Chambers gave a synopsis of the meeting and provided the Commission with key points of the meeting. Mr. Chambers further reported that a future meeting will be scheduled with the Department's Executive Director, along with Chairman Castro and the Department's Deputy Director.

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General Counsel Gray indicated that the Commission could seek its own independent funds for Fair Housing cases. Chairman Castro also stated that if no arrangement is made between the Commission and the Department, HUD might intervene to help resolve the issue.

Mr. Chambers announced that a 5% compensation increase for the Commission's Administrative Law Judges ("ALJs") has been approved by the Governor's Office. Mr. Chambers and the Chairman indicated that the ALJs had long been underpaid for many years, and they expressed pleasure at being able to finally provide the ALJs with some long overdue increase in their salaries.

*B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer*

Dr. Ewa reported that the ALJs' 5% salary increase went into effect July 2013.

Dr. Ewa reported that all Union issues are settled and all salary adjustments have been resolved.

Dr. Ewa reported that the FY14 budget is set at 1.79 million dollars and that the Commission must manage its budget so as to not go into a deficit.

Dr. Ewa reported that the position for an additional Assistant General Counsel has been approved. The position is non-union.

*C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge*

Judge Evans was not available for the July 24, 2013, meeting. Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge Reva Bauch gave the report for the Chief Administrative Law Judge for the month of June 2013.

Deputy Chief ALJ Bauch also thanked the Commissioners, the Chairman, Director Chambers, and Dr. Ewa for their on the issue of the ALJs' salaries.

*D. Donyelle Gray, General Counsel*

Ms. Gray thanked the Summer Coles Fellows and interns for their work with the Commission this Summer.

At this time, the Fellows and the intern who was present, were recognized for their work with the Commission. The Chairman presented to each student a certificate of acknowledgment signed by the Governor.

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**VI. New Business**

*Meet the Staff*

The Commission's new receptionist, Jose Galvez, introduced himself to the Commissioners. Mr. Galvez is assigned to the Commission's Chicago office.

**VII. Petitions for Rehearing En Banc**

**A. *Vinston Birdin v. Proviso Township High School District #209***  
Charge No.: 2008CA0790 ALS No.: 10-0078

The Commission voted to deny the Petition. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi seconded by Commissioner Cantone. Motion carried 11-0.

**B. *Major R. Purnel v. United Parcel Service***  
Charge No.: 2005CA1959 ALS No.: 07-469

The Commission voted to deny the Petition. Motion made by Commissioner Cantone seconded by Commissioner Gash. Motion carried 11-0.

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

None

**IX. Executive Session**

None

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Walsh, seconded by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray  
General Counsel